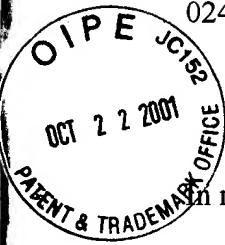


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SS
AP 7B
1-16-02

in re patent application of

Muraguchi et. al.

Examiner (not assigned)

Serial No. 09/940,716

Art Unit 2872

for POLARIZING FILTER AND OPTICAL DEVICE USING THE SAME

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Applicants wish to amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please add claims 17 through 22 as follows:

17. A polarizing filter according to Claim 2, wherein one to four layers of dielectric thin films selected from said first group and one to four layers of dielectric thin films selected from said second group are laminated alternately on said transparent flat substrate.

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18. A polarizing filter according to Claim 2, wherein a refractive index difference with respect to the wavelength of incident light between adjacent dielectric thin films selected from the dielectric materials belonging to said first and said second groups respectively is in a range of from 0.15 to 1.2, both inclusively.